



Community Benefit Fund Guidance for Applications

1. About Lymm Community Energy

Lymm Community Energy Limited (LCE) is a Community Benefit Society (CBS) which is a not-for-profit business registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and governed by a set of Rules. The objects of the Society are to carry on any business for the benefit of the community by:

- (a) promoting renewable energy generation and developing, installing and operating renewable and low carbon energy systems;
- (b) enabling the local and wider community to share in the ownership of renewable and low carbon energy projects;
- (c) raising awareness and supporting educational and other initiatives related to renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainability.

LCE raises funds by issuing shares to investors who then become members of the Society. LCE has raised £184,550 through two share offers in 2015 and 2016. This money has been used to install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in the four primary schools in Lymm with a total capacity of 126kW and also to enable three of the schools to fit low energy (LED) lighting. Income from the Feed-in Tariff and electricity charges enables LCE to pay interest to members and to build-up a fund for the benefit of the community.

2. What is the Community Benefit Fund?

The intention of the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) is to help fund projects, compatible with the objects of the Society, which lead to reductions in energy costs and carbon emissions in the local community.

The size of the CBF currently stands at £1,500 which is the maximum LCE will be able to fund this financial year ending 31st March 2021. Applications are welcomed for funding up to this total or for smaller amounts. *However, it is unlikely that projects which require less than £500 will have a sufficient impact.*

LCE is keen to support projects which demonstrate value-for-money in terms of achieving reductions in energy costs and carbon emissions. In addition, applicants should provide details of how they would learn from implementing their projects and how they would disseminate the results to achieve wider community impacts and learning.

Applicants are encouraged to provide matched funding from other sources to increase the size and scope of their projects.

3. Who is eligible to apply?

The CBF is open to any organisations which provide services to the community in Lymm including schools, children's nurseries, play groups, community centres, clubs, societies and churches. They should be located in the Lymm Parish Area.

4. What types of project will LCE fund?

A wide range of projects, which meet the CBF objectives, will be considered including, for example:

- Capital investment in renewable energy and low carbon energy generation;
- Capital investment in energy efficiency equipment such as lighting, heating, cooling, insulation, metering and controls;
- Projects which raise awareness of the benefits of renewable energy, low carbon energy, and energy efficiency;
- Sustainable transport initiatives to encourage people to reduce car miles and/or to make use of low carbon transport alternatives.

5. How do we apply?

An application form is available which covers the following headings:

- Organisation name, address and contact details;
- Legal status
- Short description of main activities
- Project Objectives and Scope
- Work Programme and Timetable
- Project Management and Team (+ experience of similar projects)
- Project Results, Impacts and Community Benefits (how will they be measured?)
- Lessons learnt and dissemination of results
- Project Finances (total costs broken down into key items of expenditure with supporting evidence, CBF funding requested, matched funding sources)
- Supporting evidence (quotes for key items of expenditure, recent accounts, letters of support etc)

The application form can be downloaded from the Low Carbon Lymm website (www.lowcarbonlymm.org.uk) or you can request a copy by sending an email to info@lowcarbonlymm.org.uk.

This is a rolling programme and applications can be made any time during this financial year (ending 31st March 2021) and they will be assessed on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you would like to discuss your application with us, please contact:

Richard Pearce, Lymm Community Energy on 07976 352914 or 01925 382970